

## REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 6, 2004 has been received and carefully considered. In this response, claims 1, 7, 15 and 16 have been amended to improve their clarity, claims 17-34 have been canceled and new claims 35-52 have been added. The amendments are not intended to differentiate the claims from the prior art and no new matter is introduced by the amendments or the addition of new claims 35-52. Reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections in the present application therefore is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

### **Objection to Claim 3-13 and 16**

The Applicants note with appreciation the indication on page 3 of the Office Action that claims 3-13 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have opted to defer rewriting claims 3-13 and 16 in independent form pending reconsideration of the arguments presented below with respect to the rejected independent claims.

### **Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 14 and 15**

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ang (U.S. Patent No. 6,420,913). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, from which claims 2, 14 and 15 depend, recites, in part, the limitations of dynamically determining based upon a dynamic condition (that causes transmission line impedance to vary) if *a drive strength* of a first output coupled to a first node is to be adjusted and dynamically *adjusting the drive strength* of the first output when determining indicates the drive strength of the first output is to be adjusted. With respect to these claims, the Examiner asserts that Ang discloses dynamically determining based upon temperature conditions (which the Examiner appears to equate to a dynamic condition) if a drive strength of an output is to be adjusted and dynamically adjusting the drive strength of the output based on this determination. Office Action, p. 2. However, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the Applicants respectfully submit that Ang fails to disclose or suggest determining whether a drive strength of an output is

to be adjusted and *adjusting the drive strength* of the output based on this determination as recited in claim 1. Instead, Ang teaches adjusting the output impedance of a driver. *See, e.g., Ang, Abstract*. To illustrate, Ang teaches that “a *desired output impedance* can be advantageously established and maintained over a wide range of variations in operating conditions, manufacturing processes and output voltage levels.” *Id.* (emphasis added). Moreover, with respect to the temperature (PVT) conditions which the Examiner appears to consider analogous to the dynamic condition limitation of claim 1, Ang teaches that “[t]he *output impedance of the driver is further controlled* during transitional phases . . . under a plurality of process, voltage and *temperature (PVT) conditions*.” *Id.* (emphasis added). *See also Ang*, col. 7, line 60 to col. 8, line 4 (describing how the output resistance of the pull up circuit 202 of Ang can be adjusted to match to the characteristic impedance of the transmission line).

Thus, Ang teaches *adjusting the output impedance* of a driver to match the transmission line impedance, whereas claim 1 recites the limitations of *adjusting the drive strength* of an output in view of a dynamic condition that causes a transmission line impedance to vary. Ang therefore fails to disclose or suggest at least the limitations of dynamically determining if a drive strength of an output is to be adjusted and dynamically adjusting the drive strength as recited by claim 1. Consequently, the Office Action fails to establish that Ang discloses or suggests each and every limitation of claim 1. The Office Action also fails to establish that Ang discloses or suggests each and every limitation of claims 2, 14 and 15 at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Moreover, these claims recite additional limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Ang. For example, the Office Action fails to establish that Ang teaches a monitoring a plurality of values to be provided substantially simultaneously, as recited in claim 2, or monitoring a plurality of values provided sequentially, as recited in claim 15.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 2, 14 and 15 is improper at this time and the withdrawal of this rejection therefore is respectfully requested.

### **Addition of New Claims 35-52**

New claims 35-52 have been added. Support for the addition of new claims 35-52 may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter is introduced by the

addition of new claims 35-52. New claims 35-39 depend from claim 1. New claims 40-44 and 45-52 are directed to apparatuses that recite limitations similar to those recited in claim 1 and its dependent claims. Entry thereof therefore is respectfully requested.

### Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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